

Congressional Redistricting South Florida

1. Make 10 Congressional Districts out of 9 existing.
2. Keep same general layout of Districts, but make boundaries coincide more with County lines.
3. Put the new district (C.D. 24?) in high growth area:
 - western Miami-Dade to Naples
 - Key West to Broward county line
4. Move southern borders of C. D.s 14, 19, 20, 22, 23 to the north to make room for the new District 24.
5. Make C. D. 19 more fairly competitive:
 - Now 49% Democrat, 31% Republican.
 - Needs 161,000 population transfer out:
 - >Move southern border north from Oakland Park Blvd. to Atlantic Blvd.
 - >Carve out all 80%+ Democrat precincts and transfer to C.D. 23, if adjacent.
 - Result: 44% Democrat, 34% Republican.

An Estimate of the Effect of Redistricting South Florida's Congressional Districts

The 2000 Census has been completed and key data have been published. Each district in the U.S. Congress to be elected in November 2002 will have a population of approximately 639,000 persons. Florida will increase its delegation by two Representatives to a total of twenty-five. The Florida Legislature will complete its work of redistricting in March 2002 and court challenges could delay establishment of final district boundaries until May 2002.

This delay in redistricting makes planning for the election difficult, since the make-up of the districts is likely to change substantially in many cases. It is possible, however, to make a reasonable first-pass estimate of the shape of the new Congressional Districts. This has been done below by Jack Merkl (R-Boca Raton), a candidate who is "testing the waters" for nomination and election to the seat in the 19th Congressional District (CD 19), now occupied by the Hon. Robert Wexler (D-Boca Raton).

Basis of Estimate

The basis used to make this estimate is data published by the U.S. Census Bureau, the Florida Department of Elections and the county Supervisors of Elections. It includes: 2000 Census population by CD, registered voters by CD, county and party as well as precinct voter registrations by party. Further it is assumed that the State Legislature will redistrict in line with the following objectives: a) stay within the bounds of U.S. Court rulings, b) create the two new districts in the areas which have grown the most over the last decade, c) protect or improve existing voter registration advantages in Districts with Republican incumbents and d) maximize the opportunity for Republicans in all districts to win elections over the long term.

Location of New Congressional Districts

The Census shows that the fastest growing area in Florida is the suburbs of Collier, Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. The four Congressional Districts that cover this area (CDs 14, 16, 19 and 20) averaged 783,000 population per District in the Census of 2000. This is 22% larger than the population in the average U.S. Congressional District required by reapportionment (approximately 639,000).

The next most rapidly growing area is Orlando-and-east (CDs 7, 8, 12 and 15) which average 723,000 population or 13% more than that required by reapportionment.

It is therefore highly likely that one of the new Congressional Districts will be in south Florida's suburbs. The existing 9 CDs in south Florida (including the above rapidly-growing four districts plus five slow-growing urban districts) comprise 6,347,000 population only 46,000 shy of filling out ten full districts. This estimate has concluded

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that the best place for the new district in south Florida is the area made up of: all of Monroe County and southern Collier, western Miami-Dade and southwestern Broward Counties. The spatial effect of placing the new CD here is shown on the attached map and is described as follows:

- CD 14 (Goss-R) moves its northern border slightly north encompassing the rest of Charlotte County and moves its southern border to north Naples.
- CD 20 (Deutsch-D) moves its southern boundary from the tip of Florida to southern Broward (approximately Hollywood Boulevard). CD 20 moves its northern border from Oakland Park Boulevard northward about to Atlantic Boulevard.
- CD 19 (Wexler-D) moves its southern border north to Atlantic Boulevard which accomplishes most of its required reduction in population.
- The New CD covers the tip of Florida between CD14 on the west coast, CDs 18 and 21 (Diaz-Balart-R and Ros-Lehtinen-R) on the east in Miami-Dade and CD 20 in Broward.

This broad layout of districts facilitates the more detailed adjustment of CD borders aimed at achieving the above-mentioned objectives of keeping and winning more Republican seats in Congress.

An Estimate of the Results of Redistricting

The first step is to improve on the 42% Democrat to 38% Republican voter registration disadvantage in Rep. Shaw's CD 22. This can be done by redistricting all of the highly Democrat southern end of CD 22 that is in Miami-Dade into Rep. Meek's CD 17. This entails a transfer of population of 153,000. Rep. Shaw's district is then extended northward into north Palm Beach, Martin and St Lucie counties which before this move are in Rep. Foley's CD 16. This shift results in Rep. Shaw's CD 22 improving from a 42% to 38% disadvantage to a 38% Democrat to 42% Republican advantage, a margin of about 16,000 registered voters. This should be enough to dissuade the Democrats from seriously contesting this district in the near future.

Rep. Foley's CD 16 has to be downsized from a pre-reapportionment population of 758,000 to the required 639,000. The transfer to CD 22 suggested above slightly overdoes this downsizing and CD 16 is balanced out by small population transfers of 19,000 from CD 12 (the rest of Highlands County) and 25,000 from CD 23. The net effect on voter registration is for Rep. Foley's CD 16 to retain its 39% Democrat/ 42% Republican advantage, a margin of about 10,000 registered voters.

The combined area comprising the redistricted CD 22 and CD 16 have a Republican voter plurality of 26,000. Depending on how precincts within this area are assigned between Reps. Shaw and Foley, the balance can be tilted to favor one or the other. This detailed assignment is beyond the scope of this first pass analysis, but it is observed that Rep. Foley's district is growing more rapidly than Rep. Shaw's. Therefore, the positive margins of registered voters in each district should grow over the coming decade.

Returning to Miami-Dade, the shift of 153,000 population from CD 22 (Shaw) to CD 17 (Meek) more than covers the 62,000 reapportionment population deficiency in CD 17. (Note: CD17 is the slowest growing district in Florida). This is balanced by moving the border between CD 17(Meek) and CD 21 (Diaz-Balart) to the east, along with 80,000 population from CD 17 to CD 21.

In turn, CD 21 moves its western boundary to the east making way, in part, for the New Congressional District. CD 21, which is the third fastest growing district in Florida, has to shed an additional 162,000 population to meet the reapportionment target of 639,000 per CD. It is suggested that this be done by roughly equal transfers to CD18 (Rep. Ros-Lehtinen) and CD 20 (Rep. Deutsch).

Overall, the New CD is created by taking 177,000 of population from southern Collier County (CD 14-Goss), 121,000 of population from the western edges of CDs 18 and 21 (Ros-Lehtinen and Diaz-Balart) and 341,000 of population from the south of Broward (CD 20-Deutsch).

Translating these population shifts into numbers of registered voters in each party results in the following political make-up of these districts;

- The New CD has 36% Democrats and 45% Republicans, a margin favoring the Republicans of 24,000 registered voters.
- The two largely Cuban-American districts in Miami (CDs 18 and 21) remain solidly Republican, but their overall plurality is reduced from 21 percentage points before redistricting to 13 percentage points after. It is beyond the scope of detail of this analysis to determine whether this Republican plurality can be shared equally. One case prepared for this estimate suggests that the plurality in CD 21 cannot be any larger than 10 percentage points and the plurality in CD 18 no smaller than 17 percentage points, due to geographic constraints.
- The Democrat plurality in the two heavily Democrat districts (CDs 17 and 20) remain so after redistricting. Rep Meek's redistricted CD 17 will be 67% Democrat and only 17% Republican. Rep. Deutsch's CD 20 will retain its 48% Democrat to 33% Republican margin after redistricting.
- Likewise, Rep Goss's CD 14 retains its wide Republican plurality, about 30% Democrat and 50% Republican voter registration.

This takes us to CD 19 and the adjacent CD 23, represented by Democratic Congressmen Wexler and Hastings, respectively. CD 19 has had the highest population growth rate in Florida over the last decade, whereas CD 23 has grown slightly more slowly than the state overall. CD 19 has to be cut down from its Census 2000 level of 801,000 to the reapportioned level of 639,000. Most of this can be accomplished by the above-mentioned shift of the border between CD 20 and CD 19 northward to about Atlantic Boulevard in Broward County. This is a shift of 117,000 of population. The

remaining shift of 45,000 population from CD 19 is best accomplished by transferring two areas with 90+ % Democratic voter registration into CD 23 (Hastings) which is two-thirds Democratic. The result on CD 19 voter registration is shown below:

	<u>Congressional District 19</u>	
	<u>Before Redistricting</u>	<u>After Redistricting</u>
Registered Voters: (000s)		
Democrat	235	173
Republican	151	132
Other	<u>99</u>	<u>82</u>
Total	485	387
% Registered Voters:		
Democrat	49	45
Republican	31	34
Other	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>
Total	100	100

Note that the Democrat registration margin is cut in half due to redistricting, from 84,000 voters in the 2000 election to only 41,000 in the 2002 elections. Percentagewise, the Democratic party advantage shrinks from 18 points to 11 points. A map depicting CD 19 before and after estimated redistricting is attached. It lists precincts and areas to be transferred out of CD 19 to meet the above-stated objectives.

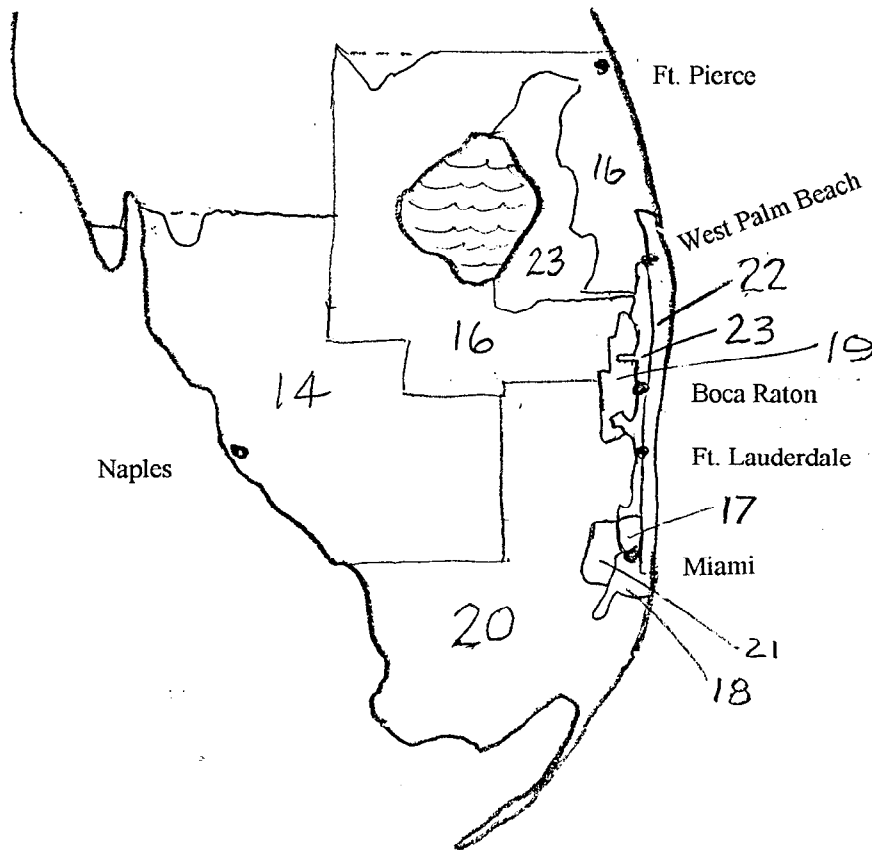
Methodology

This estimate was prepared by hand. Population data by CD was compiled to determine how much each CD had to be expanded or contracted to conform with the 639,000 reapportionment target. Transfers of population were then made to reapportion in the way likely to be most advantageous to Republican candidates. These population transfers were then converted to numbers of registered voters, using actual registration rates for each district. These rates varied from a low of 40% in CD 17 to a high of 61% in CD 19. Next the number of registered voters to be transferred was calculated, using detailed precinct data by party affiliation. Successive trial and error steps were repeated to attempt to improve on the results. More detailed estimates of the results of redistricting were made for the CDs in Palm Beach and Broward counties, since these were the focus of the study. Access to calculation worksheets can be arranged by emailing jackmerkl@netzero.net

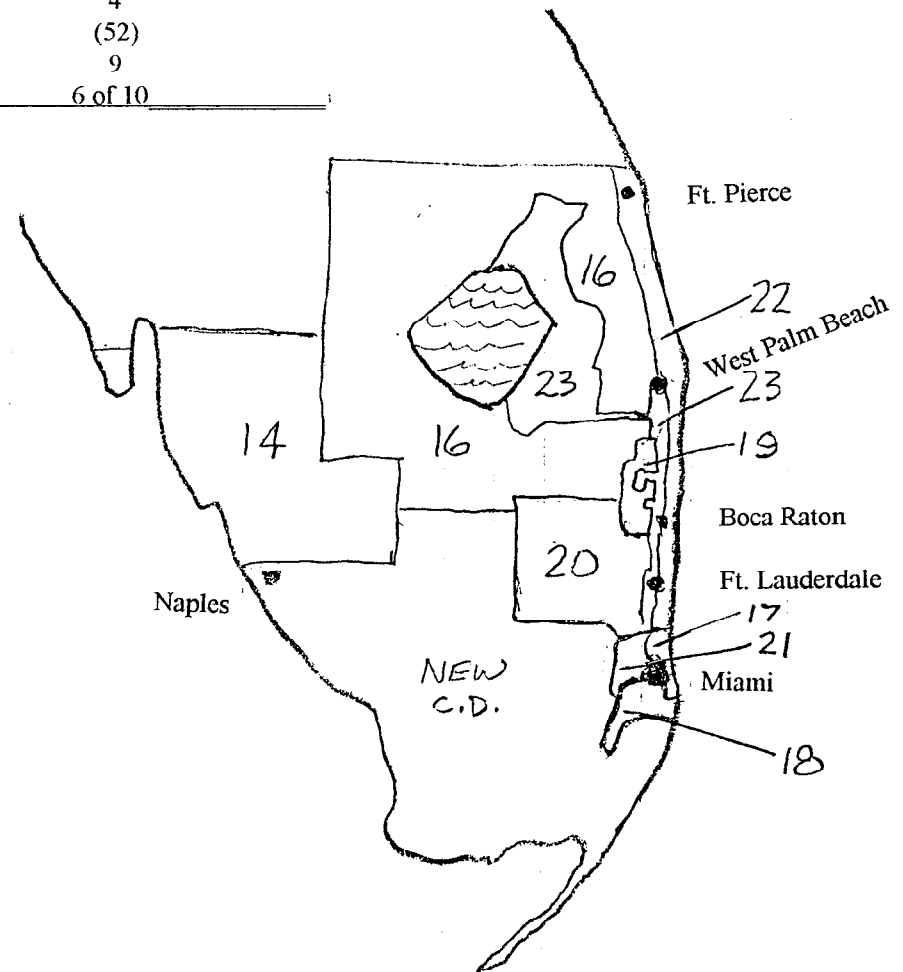
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South Florida's Congressional Districts An Estimate of the Effect of Redistricting

Congressional District	Incumbent	Republican Voter Regis. Advantage/ (Disadvantage) in % points	
		In 2000	After Redistricting
14	Goss-R	21	19
16	Foley-R	3	3
17	Meek-D	(59)	(50)
18	Ros-Lehtinen-R	20	17
19	Wexler-D	(18)	(11)
20	Deutsch-D	(15)	(15)
21	Diaz-Balart-R	22	10
22	Shaw-R	(4)	4
23	Hastings-D	(49)	(52)
New	-----	-	9
REPUBLICAN ADVANTAGE		4 of 9	6 of 10



Before Redistricting



After Suggested Redistricting

Estimated Effect of Redistricting on Congressional District 19

Before
Redistricting

After Estimated
Redistricting

